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**STATE OF INDIANA**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

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## **INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE**

**November 15, 2008 at 14:00**

### **Description of Incident**

City of Death Valley is in the midst of a full-scale influenza pandemic.

### **Current Situation**

Hundreds of people in Death Valley are confirmed to have influenza (“the flu”), and some have died. The Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC) hospital has 179 of its 375 beds occupied. A number of those patients are infected with the flu.

### **State Agencies Active in Response Operations**

#### **State Agencies**

Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Department of Natural Resources, Indiana National Guard – primary  
Indiana Department of Agriculture, Indiana Board of Animal Health, Family and Social Services Association, Indiana State Personnel Department, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, Indiana Department of Labor – secondary

#### **Federal Agencies**

None at this time

#### **Non-Government Agencies**

American Red Cross

### **Updated Information**

- State health officials urge residents to stay at home and avoid public gatherings. They are reminding the public to wash their hands, especially after sneezing or coughing, and to sneeze or cough into their sleeve if a disposable tissue isn't available.
- Delaware County EMA reports a medical emergency regarding Governor collapsing in Death City, Delaware County, Indiana. Governor is unconscious and unable to perform duties of his office. Will provide updates on the Governor, as they become available.
- Local law enforcement officials are responding to reports of looters breaking into local Death Valley stores to steal food and electronics. Indiana State Police has been in constant contact with the local law enforcement and will deploy once they request assistance.
- The Indiana State Police reports one officer from the Delaware County Sheriff's office has been injured and one officer has died. Contact the Delaware County Sheriff's office for additional information on the injured and deceased officers.
- The Indiana National Guard provided a company (100 personnel) to assist Death Valley law enforcement and 28 personnel to assist BOAH with animal processing.
- State Personnel has not closed any state facilities, including IGCS. Unless and until that site is closed, the

appointing authority for state employees may authorize unpaid leave.

- In response to an inquiry from a state employee about the need to stay home from work with sick children, State Personnel reported that according to procedures in the Emergency Conditions Leave (07012005), the appointing authority for the state agency has the option to reassign employees to other work site(s) and/or authorize leave without pay. Employees may elect to use vacation or personal time to cover their absence.
- Based on what has happened in previous flu pandemics, state health officials estimate the current pandemic could last another 5-9 weeks, with the possibility of two to three more waves of illnesses. Approximately 35% of the residents of Death Valley are expected to get the flu, with an estimated 2% dying from the illness.

### **Disaster Declarations**

Death Valley Board of Commissioners declared state of emergency for pandemic flu at 1135.

### **Health, Safety and Security**

**Fatalities:** 6

**Injuries:** 123 sick with influenza in Death Valley

**Missing:** 0

### **Critical Infrastructure and Facilities**

#### **Boil Orders**

- Death Valley has lost a water pump that serves the hospital. Portable water is being brought in to support the hospital. At this time, the hospital continues to function.
- Personal water wells and tap water is not impacted at this time. Water is considered safe for personal use and consumption.

### **Transportation**

Per state of emergency for pandemic flu declaration, future travel of Death Valley residents: Delaware County is allowing travel only if it is an emergency. For Jay County, travel is strongly discouraged.

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Contact

IDHS Public Information Office, 317.607.8476, [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

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